

As a member of the WCVE-FM Public Radio Advisory Committee for 5 years, I have long advocated the need in the Richmond, Va., area for additional FM radio capability. With the advent of digital transmission, I am very hopeful that WCVE will be able to utilize a Supplemental Audio Channel or "SAC". I think the national trend in commercial radio to fewer and fewer radio channels where cost cutting and elimination of traditional radio services have been the impetus, the need is greater than ever for the public to have access to additional quality radio programming. My particular interest is in improved news services. A SAC would provide the capability for improved and increased news programming that will provide central Virginia listeners a desperately needed service. Once there were many radio reporters and news services locally. They have all been eliminated while syndication or "talk" radio material fills the air. There is broad support in Central Virginia for additional FM radio service. The loss of news and information beyond the sensational of local commercial tv is reflected in poorly informed citizens. Our state and our country are suffering from the loss of news sources. Once we were a two newspaper city. No longer. Radio, increasingly, with young people is their source of information. Virginians could benefit enormously from two distince streams of programming that could be conducted simultaneously.

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